

**The Net North Shields
Registered Charity No. 1151677**

**Trustees' Report
and
Financial Statement
for the year ended
31 December 2024**

Legal and Administrative Information

Name: **The Net North Shields**

Charity no: 1151677

Structure: Unincorporated association governed by a constitution.

Trustees: D Hodgson
L Kay
B Tavernor
C Brown
JC Nolan
S Barlow
R Chapman
S Tempest

Trustees are elected by the membership at each Annual General Meeting.

Principal Office: The Old Low Light
Clifford Fort
North Shields
Tyne & Wear
NE30 1JA

Bankers: HSBC
110 Grey Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 6JG

Independent Examiner: Mark Thompson MAAT
VODA
Spirit of North Tyneside Wing
2nd Floor, Wallsend Community Hub & Library
16 The Forum
Wallsend
NE28 8JR

The Net North Shields

Trustees Report: for the year ended December 2024

We are pleased to report that 2024 has been a positive and productive year for the Old Low Light Heritage Centre, with more than 130 events and activities delivered and close to 30,000 visitors welcomed through our doors.

Despite continued financial challenges facing small charities, we remained focused on our core objectives: preserving and sharing the rich heritage of North Shields and the Fish Quay, engaging and educating the community, and providing an inclusive, welcoming space for people of all ages and backgrounds. We are proud to say that we continued to deliver against all of these aims throughout the year.

1. Charitable Objectives and Public Benefit

The Old Low Light's charitable objectives focus on heritage education, community engagement, and public benefit through cultural programming. These were reflected in our 2024 activities, which included:

- . A well-attended **Merchant Navy exhibition**, praised by visitors and helping to interpret the region's maritime history.
- . Over **130 public events**, including heritage talks, live music, exhibitions, workshops, guided walks, and community gatherings.
- . A varied and expanding **talks programme**, including Saturday and Tuesday sessions.
- . Active **school engagement**, with hundreds of local children visiting for heritage and history activities.
- . Ongoing support for **FLOW**, a group supporting adults with additional needs through creative activity.
- . Continued use of the centre as a '**warm space**', providing comfort and community to those who need it.

Our events and exhibitions continue to support education, reflection, and celebration of the area's rich local history, helping meet our charitable purpose.

2. Financial Management and Sustainability

In 2024, we continued to manage our finances prudently, responding to inflationary pressures and balancing income and expenditure wherever possible. Core funding was received from:

- . **The National Lottery Community Fund** (multi-year grant)
- . **Garfield Weston Trust**
- . **Community Foundation**
- . **Sir James Knott Trust** – £10,000 per year confirmed for the next three years

Alongside grant funding, we raised a significant portion of our income through charitable trading activities – including our café, shop, events, membership scheme, and room hire. Additional measures included:

- . **Increasing membership fees** and introducing **half-price talks for members** (helping reduce 'no shows' and improve attendance rates)
- . Running **plant sales** and a **five-day art exhibition** (raising funds through a 25% donation on sales)
- . Careful cost management and regular review of spending

This combination of grant funding, earned income, and financial controls has allowed us to remain operational and plan confidently for our tenth anniversary year in 2025.

3. Activities and Achievements

Highlights of the year included:

- . A full **programme of heritage and cultural events** – over 130 in total
- . **Live music concerts**, including the successful trial of Saturday afternoon performances
- . An increase in **guided walks**, with new routes covering Preston Village and Tynemouth alongside our coastal walks
- . A series of **arts and crafts workshops**, including ceramics and willow weaving, attracting new audiences and providing additional income
- . Ongoing collaboration with local schools and community groups
- . Strengthened partnerships with local organisations and new collaboration with **I Love North Shields**, a monthly cultural magazine
- . Physical improvements to the building, including **external decoration** and use of the **David W Bavaird Community Room** for a growing number of workshops and hires

4. Volunteering and Community Support

Our achievements in 2024 would not have been possible without our dedicated volunteers, who continue to give their time, skills, and energy to keep the centre running and welcoming. We were pleased to welcome **new volunteers** to our team in 2024, helping to build capacity and ensure continuity.

The **plant sales**, regular guided walks, and support for exhibitions all benefited from community contributions and goodwill, demonstrating the value the local public places on the centre.

5. Looking Ahead to 2025

As we approach the **10th anniversary of our official opening**, we are preparing a range of activities to commemorate this milestone and to mark the **800th anniversary of the founding of North Shields** in 2025.

Plans for 2025 include:

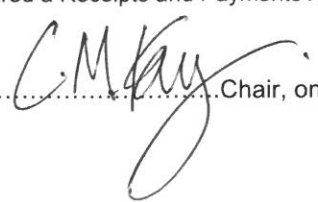
- . New **display boards** and exhibitions telling the story of North Shields from its founding to the present day
- . Themed talks, walks, and events linked to the 800th anniversary
- . Continued partnership with local organisations and the council to deliver a community-wide celebration
- . Much-needed **building repairs and improvements**, for which we will continue to seek funding

In Summary

2024 has been a strong year for the Old Low Light. We have remained true to our objectives, enhanced our programming, stabilised our finances, and built new relationships. Thanks to the tireless efforts of our volunteers, the generosity of our funders, and the continued support of the community, we look ahead to 2025 with excitement and determination.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which comply with the regulations set out in the Charities Act 1993. The Trustees have elected to take advantage of the provisions that apply to small charities and have prepared a Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Signed:  Chair, on behalf of the Trustees, date: **17 JULY 2025**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

**Report to the
trustees of**

The Net North Shields

**On accounts for
the year ended**

31 December 2024

Charity no 1151677

**Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and
examiner**

The trustees of the organisation are responsible for the preparation of accounts; they consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act),
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act), and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of
independent
examiner's
statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

**Independent
examiner's
statement**

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:

- proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 130 of the Act); and
- accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date: 20 October 2025

Name:

Mark Thompson MAAT

Address:

VODA
Spirit of North Tyneside Wing
2nd Floor, Wallsend Community Hub & Library
16 The Forum
Wallsend
NE28 8JR

The Net North Shields

Receipts and payments account for the period

1 January to 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 Unrestricted	2024 Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
Income					
Donations	(2)	15669	24391	40060	55923
Charitable Activities	(3)	13245		13245	11333
Other Trading Activities	(4)	113564		113564	106675
Investment Income		155		155	163
Total Income		142633	24391	167024	174094
Expenditure					
Cost of Trading Activities	(5)	22827	1500	24327	22910
Charitable Activities	(6)	138759	23369	162128	145979
Depreciation				0	0
Total Expenditure		161586	24869	186455	168889
Surplus for the period		-18953	-478	-19431	5205
Transfers Between Funds					
Balance at 1 January 2024		23400	5034	28434	23229
Balance at 31 December 2024		4447	4556	9003	28434

**The Net North Shields
Balance Sheet
at 31 December 2024**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fixed Assets	0	0
Current Assets		
Debtors		
Prepayments	1145	2976
Stock	894	456
Cash at Bank & in Hand	10897	28723
Total Cash Balances	12936	32155
Current Liabilities	3933	3721
Net Current Assets	9003	28434
Net Assets at 31 December 2024	9003	28434
Represented By:		
Restricted Funds	4556	5034
Unrestricted Funds	4447	23400
	9003	28434
Total	9003	28434

The financial statements were approved by the following members of the Management Committee :

Signed L. M. Kay Position TRUSTEE
 Signed DAVID RODGSON Position TRUSTEE
 Date 17 JULY 2025

The Net North Shields

Notes to the accounts, 2024

1. Accounting Policies

- a The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006

The Net North Shields meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

- b Grants received are accounted for on a received basis and credited to income.
- c Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Receipts and Payments Account when received.

2. Grants & Donations

North Tyneside Council - Winter Warm Space	3500
National Lottery Community Fund	20891
	24391

3. Charitable Activities

Room Hire	13245
	13245

4. Other Trading Activities

Café & Shop Income	88262
Event Income	16163
Admission and Ticket Sales	4129
Membership	5010
	113564

5. Costs of Trading Activities

Café Supplies	18287
Gift Shop Supplies	0
Event Costs of Sale	3125
Museum Costs	2915
	24327

6. Costs of Charitable Activities

Staff Costs	115007
Premises	36085
Insurance Fees	3772
Legal & Professional	897
Office Costs	6367
	162128

7. Trustees, staff and related party transactions

The organisation employed an average of 7 members of staff during the period of the accounts. No payments were made to trustees.

8. Restricted Funds

Analysis of Restricted Funds:

	Open Bal	Income	Expend	End Bal
North Tyneside Council - Winter Warm Space	1000	3500	3500	1000
National Lottery Community Fund	4034	20891	21369	3556

Total	5034	24391	24869	4556
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